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MAINE DEPARTMENT OF
LABOR
20 Union Street Augusta, Maine 04330

BUREAU OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY
Division of Economic Analysis and Research

LABOR MARKET DIGEST

MARCH 1985

A Labor Market Information Newsletter on Maine Economic Activity

EARNINGS GAINS OF MANUFACTURING WORKERS IN NEW ENGLAND AND MAINE EXCEED NATIONAL INCREASE

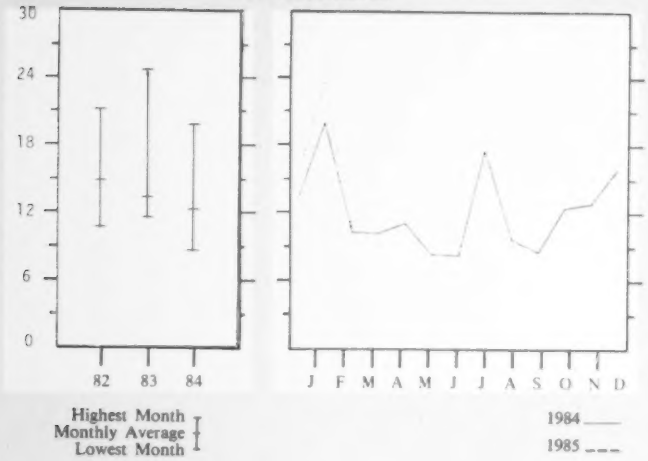
THE AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS ON MANUFACTURING PAYROLLS IN NEW ENGLAND INCREASED 6.9 PERCENT BETWEEN DECEMBER 1983 AND DECEMBER 1984, ACCORDING TO ANTHONY J. FERRARA, REGIONAL COMMISSIONER FOR THE U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS. NATIONALLY, EARNINGS OF WAGE AND SALARY MANUFACTURING PRODUCTION WORKERS ROSE 3.9 PERCENT BETWEEN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF LAST YEAR AND THE SAME PERIOD IN 1984. DURING DECEMBER 1984, THE AVERAGE PRODUCTION WORKER IN THE REGION MADE $8.81 AN HOUR, ABOUT 94 PERCENT OF THE NATIONAL AVERAGE MANUFACTURING WAGE OF $9.39 AN HOUR.

OVER THE YEAR, INCREASES IN THE AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE OF PRODUCTION WORKERS RANGED FROM 3.4 PERCENT IN RHODE ISLAND TO 7.6 PERCENT IN MAINE. RHODE ISLAND WAS THE ONLY STATE TO REGISTER AN INCREASE LESS THAN THE 3.9 PERCENT NATIONAL AVERAGE. FOUR AREAS, LEWISTON-AUBURN, NASHUA, NEW BRITAIN, AND PORTLAND, RECORDED INCREASES OF 6.0 PERCENT OR MORE.

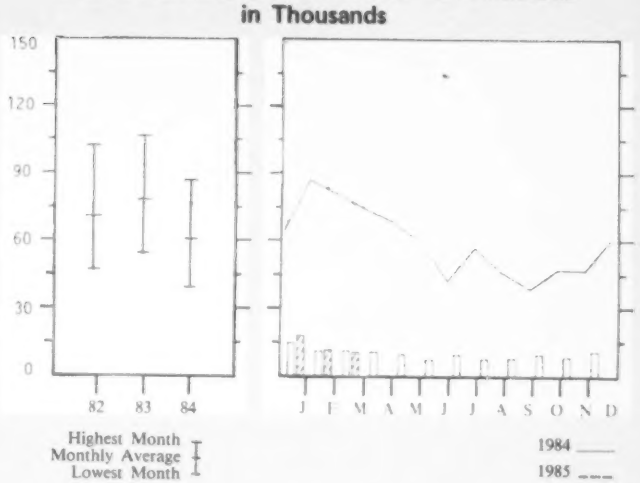
A COMPARISON OF AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS WITH EACH OF THE OTHER NEW ENGLAND STATES REVEALS THAT MAINE IS IN A RELATIVELY GOOD POSITION. MAINE'S EARNINGS OF $8.37 AN HOUR IN DECEMBER RANKED BELOW THE MORE HEAVILY INDUSTRIALIZED STATES OF CONNECTICUT AND MASSACHUSETTS, WITH HOURLY EARNINGS OF $9.44 AND $8.81, RESPECTIVELY. MAINE MAINTAINED HIGHER AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS THAN VERMONT ($8.30), NEW HAMPSHIRE ($8.06), AND RHODE ISLAND ($7.23).

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

UI Initial Claims
in Thousands



UI Intrastate Weeks Claimed
in Thousands



WHEN COMPARED WITH THE NATION AND THE OTHER NEW ENGLAND STATES OVER A SIX-YEAR PERIOD, AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS OF MAINE PRODUCTION WORKERS HAVE INCREASED MORE RAPIDLY THAN THOSE PAID IN THE NATION AS A WHOLE AS WELL AS FOR EACH OF THE NEW ENGLAND STATES. MAINE'S PRODUCTION WORKER WAGES HAVE ALSO OUTPACED THE INCREASE IN THE U.S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX IN THAT PERIOD OF HIGH INFLATION. FROM 1978 TO 1984, THE U.S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI) ROSE 59.2 PERCENT, WHILE THE HOURLY EARNINGS FOR MAINE'S PRODUCTION WORKERS INCREASED BY 64.0 PERCENT. NONE OF THE OTHER NEW ENGLAND STATES MAINTAINED ANNUAL AVERAGE INCREASES EQUAL TO OR HIGHER THAN THE CPI INCREASE DURING THAT TIME PERIOD.

THESE DATA ARE PRODUCTS OF THE FEDERAL/STATE COOPERATIVE CURRENT EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS PROGRAM. PAYROLL REPORTS FROM A SAMPLE OF EMPLOYERS PROVIDE MONTHLY INFORMATION ON WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT, HOURS, AND EARNINGS IN NONAGRICULTURAL ESTABLISHMENTS, BY INDUSTRY, FOR MAINE, AND THE PORTLAND AND LEWISTON-AUBURN METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS. HOURS AND EARNINGS DATA FOR PRODUCTION WORKERS IN MANUFACTURING ARE PUBLISHED EACH MONTH ON PAGE FOUR OF MAINE LABOR MARKET DIGEST.

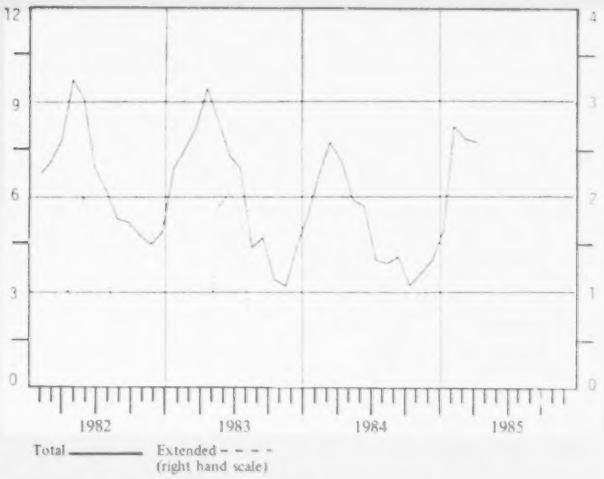
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONCERNING CURRENT AND HISTORICAL HOURS AND EARNINGS DATA, PLEASE CONTACT THE MAINE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, BUREAU OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY, DIVISION OF ECONOMIC ANALYSIS AND RESEARCH, 20 UNION STREET, AUGUSTA, MAINE 04330, OR CALL (207) 289-2271.

Selected Employment Security Activities

UI Benefit Payments

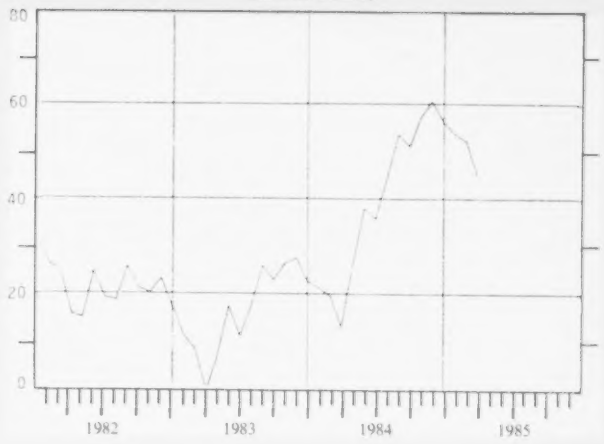
in Million Dollars

(Total Includes Maine's Portion of Extended Benefits)



Unemployment Compensation Fund Balance in Millions

(End of Month)



Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment by Place of Work

in Thousands

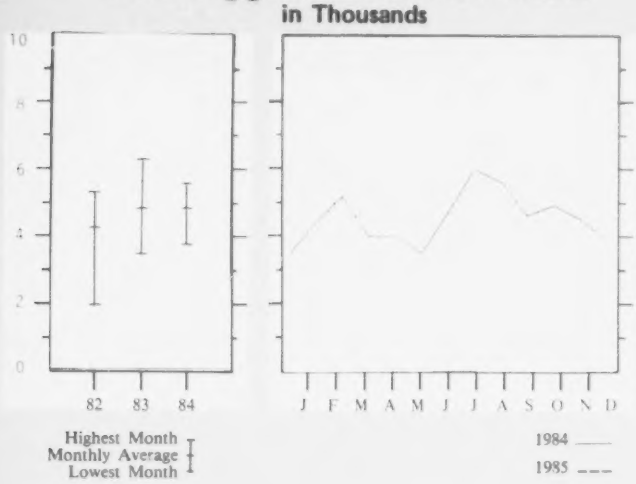
ITEM	STATEWIDE This Month	STATEWIDE Last Month	STATEWIDE Year Ago	PORTLAND MSA This Month	PORTLAND MSA Last Month	PORTLAND MSA Year Ago	LEWISTON-AUBURN MSA This Month	LEWISTON-AUBURN MSA Last Month	LEWISTON-AUBURN MSA Year Ago
Total Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment 1/	437.5	436.9	426.8	103.0	102.2	98.0	35.6	35.4	36.3
Total Manufacturing	106.0	106.6	109.2	16.4	16.3	16.0	10.2	10.3	11.7
Durable Goods	44.4	45.3	43.1	8.1	8.1	7.5	2.4	2.4	2.3
Lumber and Wood Products 2/	13.1	13.9	13.5	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.1
Primary and Fabricated Metals	3.8	3.8	3.8	1.1	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.7
Machinery, except Electrical	4.1	4.1	4.1	2.0	2.0	2.1	0.3	0.3	0.3
Electrical and Electronic Equipment	10.1	10.1	9.2	3.3	3.4	3.2	0.9	0.9	0.9
Transportation Equipment	9.9	9.9	9.4	(d)	(d)	(d)	*	*	*
Other Durable Goods 3/	3.4	3.5	3.1	1.1	1.1	0.8	0.3	0.3	0.3
Nondurable Goods	61.6	61.3	66.1	8.3	8.2	8.5	7.8	7.9	9.4
Food and Kindred Products	8.4	8.1	7.5	1.9	1.8	1.9	0.7	0.7	0.8
Textile Mill Products	6.9	6.8	7.6	n/a	n/a	n/a	1.5	1.4	1.7
Apparel	4.2	4.3	4.9	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Paper and Allied Products	17.7	17.8	18.0	(d)	(d)	(d)	0.7	0.7	0.7
Printing and Publishing	4.6	4.6	4.5	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.5	0.6	0.6
Rubber and Misc. Plastic Products	4.1	4.0	3.9	n/a	n/a	n/a	1.7	1.7	1.9
Leather and Leather Products	14.7	14.7	18.7	1.6	1.6	1.8	2.6	2.7	3.6
Footwear (except Rubber)	12.1	12.2	15.4	n/a	n/a	n/a	2.0	2.1	3.0
Other Leather Products	2.6	2.5	3.3	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.6	0.6	0.6
Other Nondurable Goods 4/	1.0	1.0	1.0	4.8	4.8	4.8	0.1	0.1	0.1
Total Nonmanufacturing	331.5	330.3	317.6	86.6	85.9	82.0	25.4	25.1	24.6
Mining	0.2	0.1	0.1	*	*	*	0.0	0.0	0.0
Contract Construction	16.0	15.9	15.2	4.9	4.9	4.2	1.3	1.2	1.2
Transportation and Public Utilities	19.1	19.1	18.6	5.6	5.6	5.5	1.3	1.3	1.3
Wholesale Trade	20.2	20.2	19.4	7.8	7.7	7.5	2.0	1.9	1.9
Retail Trade	78.3	77.7	73.7	21.0	20.8	20.1	6.3	6.3	6.2
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	20.4	20.3	19.1	9.1	9.1	8.6	1.8	1.9	1.7
Services	89.9	89.3	85.3	23.3	22.9	21.9	9.1	9.0	8.8
Government	87.4	87.7	86.2	14.9	14.9	14.2	3.6	3.6	3.5
Federal	18.3	18.3	18.4	1.6	1.6	1.5	0.3	0.3	0.2
State and Local 5/	69.1	69.4	67.8	13.3	13.3	12.7	3.3	3.3	3.3
Involved in Labor-Management Disputes	0.1	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

1/Employment figures relate to full - and part-time wage and salary workers in pay periods including the 12th of the month. Domestic workers in private households, proprietors, self-employed, and unpaid family workers are excluded. 2/Lumber and wood products, and furniture and fixtures are combined in the Portland series. 3/Includes Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) codes: Statewide - 25, 32, 38, 39; Portland - 32, 38, 39; Lewiston - 25, 32, 39. 4/Includes SIC codes: Statewide - 28, 29; Portland - 22, 23, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30; Lewiston - 23, 28, 29. 5/Regular teachers are inlcuded in summer months whether or not specifically paid in those months. n/a - data not available in sufficient detail for publication. *Less than 100. (d) Nondisclosure item.

THESE DATA ARE COMPILED BY THE MAINE BUREAU OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY IN COOPERATION WITH THE U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS.

New Applications For Work

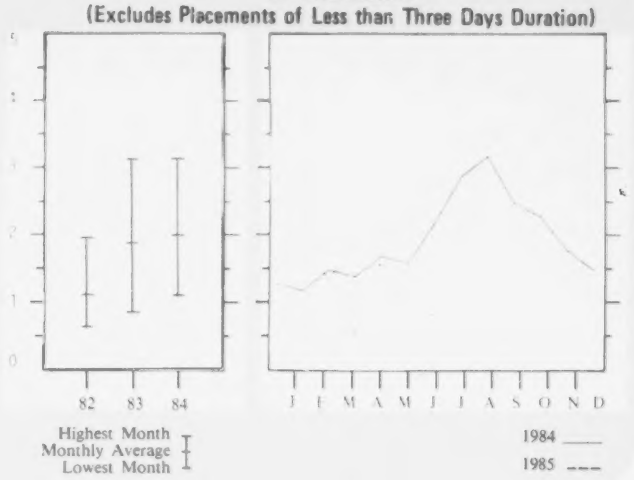
in Thousands



Nonfarm Placements

in Thousands

(Excludes Placements of Less than Three Days Duration)



Earnings and Workweek of Production Workers in Manufacturing Industries

AREA AND INDUSTRY	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS			AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS			ANNUAL AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS		
	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	1984	1983	1982
STATEWIDE												
Manufacturing	$333.48	$331.30	$296.76	39.7	39.3	37.9	$8.40	$8.43	$7.83	$8.05	$7.61	$7.22
Durable Goods	341.65	338.05	300.66	40.1	39.4	38.3	8.52	8.58	7.85	8.22	8.04	7.59
Lumber and Wood Products	309.62	312.06	278.20	39.9	39.6	38.8	7.76	7.88	7.17	7.57	7.37	6.87
Primary and Fabricated Metals	334.14	336.20	312.45	40.6	40.9	39.5	8.23	8.22	7.91	7.89	7.75	7.62
Machinery, except Electrical	375.95	372.74	315.98	42.1	41.6	42.3	8.93	8.96	7.47	8.36	8.08	7.52
Electrical and Electronic Equipment	285.67	274.07	286.38	38.5	36.3	38.7	7.42	7.55	7.40	7.56	7.27	6.74
Other Durable Goods	409.25	406.63	332.01	40.6	40.3	35.7	10.08	10.09	9.30	9.51	9.31	8.84
Nondurable Goods	327.41	325.75	294.41	39.4	39.2	37.6	8.31	8.31	7.83	7.95	7.37	7.00
Food and Kindred Products	219.10	223.08	211.20	32.0	33.0	32.0	6.68	6.76	6.60	6.46	6.10	5.84
Textile Mill Products	280.69	272.81	248.88	42.4	42.1	40.6	6.57	6.48	6.13	6.13	5.87	5.49
Apparel	199.08	208.26	181.12	33.8	35.6	32.4	5.89	5.85	5.59	5.55	5.39	5.23
Paper and Allied Products	536.69	539.81	500.64	45.1	45.4	44.7	11.90	11.89	11.20	11.62	10.95	10.10
Leather and Leather Products	216.71	208.98	196.81	36.3	35.3	33.7	5.97	5.92	5.84	5.80	5.59	5.46
Other Nondurable Goods	294.45	283.46	261.52	39.0	38.1	37.2	7.55	7.44	7.03	7.11	6.60	6.23
PORTLAND MSA												
Manufacturing	342.34	330.24	287.23	39.9	38.4	37.4	8.58	8.60	7.68	7.96	7.67	7.19
LEWISTON-AUBURN MSA												
Manufacturing	255.98	256.36	230.76	37.7	37.7	36.0	6.79	6.80	6.41	6.58	6.16	5.96

Female Labor Force in Maine

in Thousands

ITEM	This Month 1/	Last Month 1/	Year Ago 2/
Labor Force	238.0	232.0	223.7
Unemployed	15.5	15.7	15.5
(Percent)	6.5%	6.9%	6.9%
Resident Employed	222.5	216.3	208.3

U.S. Consumer Price Index

BASE PERIOD	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	Last Dec
(1967=100) All Items	318.8	317.4		315.5

Percent Change for Past Month	+0.4%
Percent Change from Last December	+1.0%
Percent Change from 12 Months Ago	+3.7%

1/ Preliminary estimates 2/ Revised

Labor Force, Employment and Unemployment

in Thousands

AREA 1/	LABOR FORCE 2/			RESIDENT EMPLOYED			UNEMPLOYMENT Number			UNEMPLOYMENT Percent of Labor Force		
	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago
MAINE-Statewide	547,6	536,4	529.5	509.9	499.8	490.8	37.7	36.6	38.7	6.9	6.8	7.3
MAJOR LABOR MARKETS												
Bangor MSA	47,600	46,800	44,600	45,000	44,300	41,900	2,600	2,500	2,700	5.5	5.3	6.1
Lewiston-Auburn MSA	42,700	41,700	42,000	39,200	38,200	38,900	3,500	3,500	3,100	8.2	8.4	7.4
Portland MSA	106,300	103,400	99,800	102,300	99,600	95,100	4,000	3,800	4,700	3.8	3.7	4.7
Portsmouth-Dover-Rochester MSA 3/	101,600	n/a	n/a	99,000	n/a	n/a	2,600	n/a	n/a	2.6	n/a	n/a
OTHER LABOR MARKETS												
Augusta	31,490	30,480	30,330	29,310	28,620	28,280	2,180	1,860	2,050	6.9	6.1	6.8
Bath-Brunswick	25,460	24,950	25,830	24,240	23,680	24,280	1,220	1,270	1,550	4.8	5.1	6.0
Belfast	11,010	10,910	10,970	9,400	9,200	9,210	1,610	1,710	1,760	14.6	15.7	16.0
Biddeford	23,950	23,120	22,700	22,580	21,760	21,130	1,370	1,360	1,570	5.7	5.9	6.9
Boothbay Harbor-Wiscasset	7,830	7,610	7,860	7,190	6,950	7,080	640	660	780	8.2	8.7	9.9
Calais-Eastport	15,000	14,700	14,800	13,510	13,240	13,230	1,490	1,460	1,570	9.9	9.9	10.6
Caribou-Presque Isle	21,760	21,520	21,190	19,400	19,050	18,500	2,360	2,470	2,690	10.8	11.5	12.7
Central Penobscot	4,240	4,230	3,990	3,950	3,960	3,740	290	270	250	6.8	6.4	6.3
Dover-Foxcroft	6,740	6,580	6,660	6,300	6,180	6,220	440	400	440	6.5	6.1	6.6
Ellsworth	21,010	20,580	20,420	19,200	18,750	18,670	1,810	1,830	1,750	8.6	8.9	8.6
Farmington	12,910	12,860	13,520	11,740	11,720	12,470	1,170	1,140	1,050	9.1	8.9	7.8
Fort Kent-Allagash	5,680	5,480	5,060	4,990	4,970	4,510	690	510	550	12.1	9.3	10.9
Greenville	1,580	1,640	1,550	1,430	1,520	1,460	150	120	90	9.5	7.3	5.8
Houlton	5,270	5,140	4,970	4,810	4,750	4,560	460	390	410	8.7	7.6	8.2
Kittery-York 3/	22,680	22,740	21,660	22,030	22,020	20,920	650	720	740	2.9	3.2	3.4
Lincoln-Howland	6,210	6,040	5,930	5,770	5,730	5,570	440	310	360	7.1	5.1	6.1
Livermore Falls	3,450	3,370	3,490	3,020	2,920	3,070	430	450	420	12.5	13.4	12.0
Madawaska-Van Buren	4,220	4,130	4,280	3,750	3,680	3,770	470	450	510	11.1	10.9	11.9
Millinocket-East Millinocket	5,500	5,370	5,260	5,230	5,160	5,020	270	210	240	4.9	3.9	4.6
Norway-Paris	9,040	8,870	8,970	8,210	8,010	8,110	830	860	860	9.2	9.7	9.6
Patten-Island Falls	2,530	2,450	2,390	2,350	2,320	2,230	180	130	160	7.1	5.3	6.7
Rockland	18,530	18,180	18,150	17,210	17,020	16,760	1,320	1,160	1,390	7.1	6.4	7.7
Rumford	10,060	9,950	9,810	9,150	9,130	9,060	910	820	750	9.0	8.2	7.6
Sanford	13,490	13,300	12,760	12,390	12,140	11,830	1,100	1,160	930	8.2	8.7	7.3
Sebago Lakes Region	8,990	8,730	8,860	8,460	8,190	8,310	530	540	550	5.9	6.2	6.2
Skowhegan	21,370	20,970	21,410	19,300	18,810	19,200	2,070	2,160	2,210	9.7	10.3	10.3
Southwest Penobscot	8,660	8,440	8,260	7,630	7,540	7,210	1,030	900	1,050	11.9	10.7	12.7
Waterville	22,530	22,210	22,100	21,000	20,730	20,590	1,530	1,480	1,510	6.8	6.7	6.8
OTHER NEW ENGLAND STATES												
Connecticut	n/a	1,669,4	1,610,3	n/a	1,578,6	1,534,7	n/a	90,8	75,6	n/a	5,4	4,7
Massachusetts	3,037,0	3,039,0	3,001,8	2,895,0	2,906,0	2,826,3	142,0	133,0	175,5	4,7	4,4	5,8
New Hampshire	n/a	516,7	505,0	n/a	487,0	480,7	n/a	29,7	24,3	n/a	5,7	4,8
Rhode Island	490,1	488,8	476,9	461,8	461,2	443,0	28,3	27,6	34,0	5,8	5,6	7,1
Vermont	272,5	272,6	265,2	257,3	257,7	245,0	15,2	15,0	20,2	5,6	5,5	7,6
NEW ENGLAND STATES	n/a	5,986,3	5,859,4	n/a	5,690,5	5,529,7	n/a	296,1	329,7	n/a	4,9	5,6
UNITED STATES 4/	114,394	113,592	111,828	105,768	104,690	102,770	8,625	8,902	9,057	7,5	7,8	8,1

MSA-Metropolitan Statistical Area

Note

n/a indicates that the information was not available at the time of printing.
Employment and unemployment may not add to labor force due to rounding.

Footnotes

1/ Labor force, employment, and unemployment data for all areas not seasonally adjusted. Estimates made independently for each labor market area have been benchmarked to and extrapolated from the Current Population Survey estimates for the state. All data adjusted to place of residence basis. Excludes members of the Armed Forces.

2/ Current and last month figures preliminary; year ago figures revised.

3/ Kittery-York is the eight-town Maine portion of the Portsmouth-Dover-Rochester MSA which includes towns in both Maine and New Hampshire.

4/ National estimates based on a sample of household visits; state estimates based on enlargements of employment figures reported.

THESE DATA ARE COMPILED BY THE MAINE BUREAU OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY IN COOPERATION WITH THE U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS.

Mid-Month Insured Unemployment (Less Partials)

ITEM	STATEWIDE			PORTLAND MSA			LEWISTON-AUBURN MSA		
	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago
Number of Continued-Week Claimants	16,405	16,317	15,299	1,640	1,616	1,814	1,599	1,701	1,215
Insured Unemployment Rate *	3.9	3.9	3.8	1.9	1.9	2.2	4.7	5.0	3.6

* Should not be confused with insured unemployment rates as defined in the Employment Security Law.

Selected Characteristics Of Unemployment Insurance Claimants

REGULAR PROGRAM 1/

PERCENT DISTRIBUTION BY OCCUPATION

CATEGORY	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago
Professional, Technical, and Managerial	7.0	6.5	8.0
Clerical and Sales	14.3	14.5	16.6
Service	10.2	10.6	11.2
Agricultural, Fishery, Forestry, and Related	3.0	2.2	2.3
Processing	3.8	4.6	3.3
Machine Trades	12.4	12.5	11.4
Benchwork	11.2	11.7	9.1
Structural Work	21.6	21.0	22.4
Miscellaneous	16.5	16.4	15.7

PERCENT DISTRIBUTION BY AGE

CATEGORY	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago
Total under 40	60.4	60.3	57.0
Under 22	6.4	6.7	6.3
22-24	11.7	11.6	10.6
25-34	31.5	31.4	29.8
35-39	10.8	10.6	10.3
Total 40 and Over	39.6	39.7	43.0
40-44	7.9	7.6	7.7
45-54	12.2	12.2	11.8
55-64	9.8	9.7	9.8
65 and Over	9.7	10.2	13.7

1/ Data refers to continued claimants who received benefits under the regular state unemployment insurance program.

The Bureau of Employment Security is affiliated with the U.S. Employment and Training Administration and is a Federal-State Statistical Program Cooperative Representative of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics..

Published under Appropriation No. 03444.2

MAINE DEPARTMENT OF
LABOR
20 Union Street Augusta, Maine 04330

BUREAU OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY
Division of Economic Analysis and Research

MARCH 1985

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY
LAB 449

MAINE JOB SERVICE

"For Qualified Workers Contact Your Local Bureau of Employment Security Job Service Office"

Labor Market Information Services